CLAIMS

1. A method for indicating the prevailing service situation in a packet radio network which includes at least one base station (BTS) and at least one terminal equipment (MS, PC), and where several classes for the quality of service have been determined,

characterized by

- determining at least one parameter representing the service situation of the packet radio network; and

- supplying this parameter to the use of the terminal equipment (MS, PC).

2. A method according to claim 1, **characterized** in that the parameter is determined in some fixed network element of the network, such as a base station system (BSS) or a support node (SGSN).

3. A method according to claim 1, **characterized** in that the parameter is determined in the terminal equipment (MS, PC).

4. A method according to claim 2 ~~or 3~~, **characterized** in that the parameter is determined on the basis of the utilization ratio of the capacity of the base station system (BSS).

5. A method according to claim 2 ~~or 3~~, **characterized** in that the parameter is determined on the basis of time stamps of the downlink packets.

6. A method according to claim 2 ~~or 3~~, **characterized** in that the parameter is determined by the success probability of resource reservation attempts or on the basis of the waiting times of resource reservations.

7. A method according to claim 2, **characterized** in that the parameter is sent to the terminal equipment (MS, PC) on a broadcast channel, preferably on BCCH or PBCCH.

8. A method according to claim 2, **characterized** in that the parameter is sent to the terminal equipment (MS, PC) as a Point-To-Multipoint transmission.

9. A method according to claim 2 ~~or 8~~, **characterized** in that the parameter is sent at least to some terminal equipments (MS, PC), preferably to a terminal equipment that has just registered to the network, individually, such as a Point-To-Point transmission or a short message.

10. A method according to claim 2, **characterized** in that the parameter is determined in more than one class for the quality of service.

11. A method according to claim 2, **characterized** in that the parameter is determined in all classes for the quality of service in the packet radio network.

12. A method according to claim 1, **characterized** in that the parameter is determined relating to at least two base station systems (BSS) and the parameter is employed as a crossover criterion.

13. A method according to ~~any one of~~ claims 1 ~~to 12~~, **characterized** in that the parameter is transmitted to the user of the terminal equipment (MS, PC).

14. A method according to ~~any one of~~ claims 1 ~~to 12~~, **characterized** in that the parameter is made available to the application program being executed in the terminal equipment (MS, PC).

15. A method according to claim 14, **characterized** in that at least one nominal value is defined for said application program and the application program independently negotiates a new class for the quality of service if said parameter deviates essentially from said nominal value.